



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 4, 2002

H.R. 3130 **Undergraduate Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology** **Education Improvement Act of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 22, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 3130 would authorize various initiatives at the National Science Foundation (NSF) related to undergraduate education in science, math, engineering, and technology. The bill would authorize grants to academic institutions and nonprofit entities for programs that would increase the number of undergraduates pursuing scientific degrees, expand research opportunities for undergraduate students, develop faculty, implement certain institutional reforms, and improve access to research instrumentation at certain universities. In addition, H.R. 3130 would direct NSF to establish a special grant program for institutions that serve minority students, including Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and tribally controlled colleges and universities. Finally, NSF would be required to fund a study by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on students' perspectives on why they would or would not pursue an undergraduate degree in these fields.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost a total of \$500 million over the 2003-2007 period. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3130 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities and community colleges by authorizing grant programs to increase the number of U.S. students obtaining degrees in nonmedical science and technology. Any costs incurred by public universities and community colleges would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3130 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	145	147	149	151	154
Estimated Outlays	0	17	81	123	136	142

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the necessary amounts would be appropriated near the beginning of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the pattern of existing education programs at NSF. Unless otherwise specified in the bill, CBO assumes that funding levels would be adjusted annually for inflation.

H.R. 3130 would specify funding levels for some—but not all—of NSF’s educational activities. The bill would direct NSF to establish at least 10 “talent expansion” centers that would focus on increasing the number of undergraduates in scientific fields and would authorize \$25 million for 2003 and such sums as may be necessary thereafter for the centers. It also would authorize about \$53 million for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 for grants for certain reforms at educational institutions, faculty development, instrumentation, undergraduate research opportunities, and certain existing programs focused on improving the quality of undergraduate education.

In addition, CBO estimates that H.R. 3130 would authorize an average of \$70 million a year for grants to institutions serving minority students. NSF expects to spend a total of \$27 million in 2002 for grants to HBCUs and tribally controlled colleges and universities, which includes institutions serving Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. CBO estimates that expanding this program to include Hispanic-Serving Institutions would cost another \$40 million in 2003 if the level of support is similar to that provided to the other institutions. Finally, the estimated funding for 2003 includes \$700,000 authorized by the bill for a NAS study.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 3130 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities as well as community colleges by authorizing grant programs to increase the number of U.S.

students obtaining degrees in nonmedical science and technology. Any costs incurred by public universities and community colleges would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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